

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086842

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, PK, BG

SUBJ: REVIEW OF SOUTH ASIA TRIP WITH GONSALVES

1. SUMMARY: INDIAN CHARGE GONSALVES CALLED ON ASST SECY SISCO MAY 3 TO REVIEW HIS IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA AND IRAN. ASST SECY SISCO INDICATED THAT TRIP HAD BEEN GOOD. WE HAD NOT EXPECTED DRAMATIC RESULTS, BUT RETURNED HOPEFUL AND IMPRESSED BY INCREASED ATMOSPHERE OF RECONCILIATION IN MAJOR SOUTH ASIA CAPITALS. ALSO FOUND THAT US BILATERAL RELATIONS GOOD WITH ALL COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. SISCO SAID THAT WE CONSIDERED INDO- BANGLADESH  
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COMMUNIQUE STEP FORWARD. PRESIDENT BHUTTO OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS CASE. MOOD IN ISLAMABAD WAS POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE. PAKS WANTED TO WORK OUT PROBLEMS. INDEED BHUTTO MADE POINT OF GIVING MRS. GANDHI HIGH MARKS FOR HER ROLE IN SETTING THE SIMLA PROCESS IN MOTION.

3. INDO- BANGLADESH OFFER OBVIOUSLY CREATED PROBLEMS FOR PAKS, BUT WAS NEW AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH. WE HAD NO SOLUTIONS OURSELVES. INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH SEEMED TO BE DOING WELL WITHOUT OUR HELP. WE WOULD CONTINUE TO PAT ALL SIDES ON BACK, BUT REMAIN OUT OF DELIBERATIONS. WE HOPED THEY WOULD ACHIEVE FURTHER PROGRESS.

4. SISCO WENT ON TO INDICATE POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS RECEIVED IN BOTH BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN. BANGLADESH OBVIOUSLY FACED MAJOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND LACKED RESOURCES. BUT IT HAD CHARISMATIC LEADERSHIP IN MUJIB BACKED BY REAL NATIONAL COMMITMENT.

5. BHUTTO HAD DONE REMARKABLE JOB IN CUSHIONING IMPACT OF 1971 IN PAKISTAN AND IN MOVING PUBLIC THERE TO ACCEPT NEW REALITIES. PAKISTAN ECONOMY SEEMED IN SURPRISINGLY GOOD SHAPE WITH REAL PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE. CONSTITUTIONAL CONSENSUS WAS MAJOR STEP. WE THOUGHT INDIA SHOULD HAVE REAL INTEREST IN SUCCESS OF POPULAR- TYPE LEADERSHIP BHUTTO REPRESENTED.

6. AT SAME TIME, SISCO SAID WE SENSED CONCERN IN PAKISTAN AND SOME WORRY IN IRAN ON SECURITY ISSUES. HE DID NOT WANT TO OVERPLAY THESE BUT INDIA WITH ITS INCREASED POWER SHOULD BE AWARE OF APPREHENSIONS. THEY RELATED PRIMARILY TO SOVIET ROLE IN PERSIAN GULF AND FACT OF INDO- SOVIET TREATY AND SOVIET- IRAQ TODAY.

7. SISCO NOTED THERE ALSO SOME ANXIETY ABOUT INDIA IN SMALLER NEIGHBORS. HE DID NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THIS, BUT SIKKIM DEVELOPMENTS CAUSED OTHERS TO WONDER. GONSALVES COMMENTED THAT INDIA COULD NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT DISPARITIES OF SIZE, ETC., BUT WAS GENUINELY TRYING TO BUILD APOLITICAL BRIDGES AS WAY TO OVERCOME COMPLEXES  
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OF SMALLER NEIGHBORS. D. P. DHAR'S TRIP TO KATHMANDU AND MRS. GANDHI'S VISIT TO SRI LANKA WERE STEPS IN THIS PROCESS.

8. REGARDING STOP IN DELHI, SISCO SAID THIS PROVED VERY USEFUL. BOTH SIDES MADE CLEAR THEIR INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. WE WERE PLEASED BY FRANK NATURE OF DIS-

CUSSIONS. BOTH SIDES CANDIDLY INDICATED AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. WE THOUGHT THIS WAS CORRECT WAY TO PROCEED IN DEVELOPING SOUNDER AND MORE REALISTIC RELATIONSHIP.

9. ON ARMS QUESTION, SISCO COMMENTED THAT WE FELT INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD KEPT US DECISION IN PERSPECTIVE EVEN IF OUR ACTIONS EXAGGERATED IN INDIAN PRESS. CLEARLY ANYTHING US SOLD PAKISTAN IN RECENT YEARS MINISCULE IN COMPARISON WITH USSR SHIPMENTS TO INDIA. SECRETARY RUSH'S PRESENTATION WAS RESTATEMENT OF OUR POLICY AS ANNOUNCED IN MID-MARCH AND INDICATION OF WHAT WAS OBVIOUS: THAT NO GOVERNMENT WOULD CLOSE OUT OPTIONS FOR FUTURE.

10. GONSALVES COMMENTED THAT ONLY JARRING NOTE TO  
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